GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3859
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000
TRAINING TO CIVILLIAN IN J & K
RASA SINGH RAWAT;VISHNU DATT

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Village Defence Committee(VDC) along the international border of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise ;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen VDCs in various States;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the intelligence network border posts of military and para-military forces particularly in the sensitive areas;

(e) the reasons for continuous increase in the terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir;

(f) whether the Government are aware of terrorist training camps and terrorist organisations across the border; (g) if so, the details thereof; and (h) the reasons for not achieving the desired success to check such terrorist organisations and activities ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b): `Public order` and `Police` are State subjects and schemes, such as Village Defence committees are constituted by State Governments as per their own requirements. No data is maintained in this regard at Government of India level for the Country as a whole. However, in so far as the State of Jammu & Kashmir is concerned, the State Government has a scheme of Village Defence Committees to help tackle the militancy in Jammu and Kashmir. Village Defence Committee members are volunteers, who are given training and supplied with arms and ammunition by the State Government. As per available information, similar institutions in the form of Village Guards exist in two districts of Nagaland. It is for the State Governments to decide about introducing any Village Defence Committee scheme in their respective States.

(c): The VDCs in J&K have not only been strengthened by way of increasing their numbers, but also by way of enhancing the strength of each Village Defence Committee by including 03 Special Police Officers and equipping them with better weapons and communication equipments.

(d): Strengthening of the intelligence and security network is a continuous process. The same is reviewed from time to time and suitable action taken to strengthen them.

(e) There was some spurt of terrorist incidents in J&K in the post Kargil phase but even then the number of incidents during 1999 which was 3072 was only marginally higher than that of 1998 which was 2932. However, it was much less than the yearwise figures of any of other preceding calender years since 1990. The civilians killed figure also showed a decline to 821 in 1999 as compared to 867 in 1998 which is the lowest since 1994 (820).

(f)&(g): Yes Sir, there are a large number of training camps for terroristrs across the border. Some of the major terrorist organisations from across the border are:
1) Hizb ul Mujahideen 2) Harkat ul Mujahideen 3) Laskar e Toiba 4) Al Badar

(h): The terrorist activities in J&K are sponsored from across the border. The security forces are vigilant and are taking all possible measures to contain terrorism. During the year 1999, 1082 militants have been killed. The Government has also appropriately and effectively brought to the notice of International community, Pakistan`s support to cross border terrorism against India.